Vol. II. Numb. 12.

THE OBSERVATOR.

the Eagerneſs of the Engliſh *to Fight the* French. *Of the Affairs of* Sweden *and* Poland. *Of the Bravery of the King of* Sweden. *A Complaint againſt the* Obſervator. *His Vindication.*

From Saturday May the 15th, to Wednesday May the 19th, 1703.

NOW, Honeſt *Country-man*, empty your Pocket full of News. Let us hear the reſt of your Stories.

Country-m. I proteſt, I have forgot the place; but I'm ſure 'twas ſome-where, the *French* and *Engliſh* were pretty near One the Other, but the *French* much Superiour in Number. However, the *Engliſh* were all for Fighting. They put Green Boughs in their Hats, and began to Shout and Hollow, as if they had been in Chaſe of the *French* Beaſt of Prey; and their Commanders (who thought Fighting at that time not to be Convenient) had much ado to hold them in. I wiſh, withal my Heart, they had let 'em ſlip: I have loſt a good Fighting Story by the Bargain.

Obſ. And perphaps our Commanders might have loſt a Campaign, if they had Fought at ſuch a Diſadvantage. 'Tis as great Policy to know *when* to Fight, as to know *how* to Fight well. *Courage* and *Cunning* are two good Ingredients in a Soldier.

Country-m. Now, I think, there is more Cunning in Knocking *Frenchmen* in the Head, than in Marching and Dodging one another, as if they were playing at Hide and Seek. I would come upon 'em Slap-Dash: I would be among the thickeſt of 'em, and would lay about me till I had laid 'em all as flat as *Flounders*. I Vow, Maſter *Obſervator*, That Young King of *Sweden* is the braveſt General in the whole World. The firſt of this Month He attack'd the *Saxon* Army by the River *Bug:* He did not ſtand to Pop and Fire at 'em, but he and his Men fell in *Pell-mell* among 'em, Cut 'em over Face and Eyes, Drove 'em into the River where I can't tell how many Hundreds of them were Drown'd. They took a Thouſand of them Priſoners; and the King Himſelf, took the General of their Horſe: Is not this a brave Man? Would I were a Young Fellow, I would go and be a Trooper under Him: It is a great Encouragement to Soldiers to Fight under ſo brave a Leader. I han't forgot at another time how he jump't firſt into the Sea, and led his Men thro' the Water to Land.

Obſ. Truly, Sir, the Affairs of *Sweden* requir'd a Prince with a Spirit Brave and Glorious, like that of their preſent King. The whole Territories of *Sweden* were intended to be Raviſhed from the Legal Poſſeſſors, by two Princes; One of which *chang'd his Religion* to get a greater Power to Invade his Neighbours, and to commit Acts of *Hoſtility* and *Injuſtice*; The other of a *Savage-Temper* and *Bruiſh-Behaviour*, aſſiſted in this dark Scene of Tyranny, according to the Example of *Lewis* the 14th who was unwilling that Oppreſſion ſhould confine its Dominion only to the Sultry South, but that the Chil North, ſhould alſo feel the Heat of its fury.

This great Young Man, the King of *Sweden*, ſeems to be the Darling of Heaven, which muſt be attributed to the Juſtneſs of his Cauſe; and if we trace the Footſteps of Common Providence, we ſhall find that GOD hath oftneſt took part with thoſe who have had the *Right* on their ſide; tho' He has often delivered up a People *whoſe Cauſe has been juſt*, for *their own Sins*, and has ſuffer'd the Wicked to Triumph over them; and has brought the Spoilers into Their Heritage, and given Their *Paternal* Eſtates into the Hands of Men of a ſtrange Language.

But a Juſt and Glorious Cauſe, ſupported by Great and Noble Souls *(Quis Meliore luto finxit Præcordia Titan)* who have a Senſe of *Native Right*, and will venture all in Defence of *Injur'd Liberty*; I ſay, *ſuch a Cauſe*, and *ſuch Men* may expect Divine Aſſiſtance, and their Enemies muſt expect Deſtruction, ſince they wage War againſt Heaven it ſelf.

There is a very Diverting and Obliging Account of this Action of the King of *Sweden*, as alſo his manner of Living and Behaviour in the Camp, Printed in the *Daily Courant*: You don't find there any Notice taken of his fine Long Perriwigs, his Lac'd and Embroider'd Cloaths, his Gilt Coaches, nor the Princely Furniture of his Tent; you are told nothing of the Varieties of his Kitchen, nor the Art of Cookery uſed therein, nor of the *Quelque-Choſes* brought to his Table; you have no Notice of the time he waſtes in Dreſſing, or that he imitates *Jupiter* in a difficult Acceſs, and tires out the Patience of Attenders at his Levy; No, he who is the Joy of his whole Kingdom, and the *Subject of the Praiſe of all Europe*, Riſes with the Sun, the Joy of the whole Earth, and is almoſt as ſoon Dreſt. He is eaſier of Acceſs than a Mouſe grown a Rat at *White-Hall*, and knows how much Diſpatch Contributes to the Life of Action. He does not ſaunter up and down the Country, from Town to Town, and from Poſt to Pillow, with an Armed Force at his Heels. If he Encamps 'tis to conſider of Peace; if he Marches 'tis to Fight the Enemy; but all his Actions center in one Point, the Common Good. Altho' a proſperous Succeſs has ſtill attended his Arms; and *Fame*, like the Morning Star, has run before him; yet in the midſt of the Triumphs of War he has made Offers of Peace,

but

but always such as were consistent with the *Justice* of his Cause, and the *Glory* of his Arms. 'Tis extreamly Generous for a Head loaden with Lawrels, to give a Gracious Nod to a Dispirited Enemy, and to offer Terms of Mercy when 'tis in his Power to Destroy. Such a Prince Copies from the Divine Original of Mercy it self, which Pardons with more Pleasure than it Condemns.

It will be well for the People of *Poland* if they do not lose their Priviledges by the Heats of Faction among them, if the Inveteracy of Parties does not obstruct the Considerations of Tranquillity. The Republick must not venture its Constitution, to support what they so unadvisedly chose for their own Ruin. 'Tis time for 'em to think of their present Circumstances, and the future Good of Posterity. I pray God direct them for the best.

Country-m. Mr. *Observator*, I have something to tell you which is no News at all, the *Jacks* and *High-Flyers* Rail at you lamentably, and swear they'll do your Business for you in a short time; and they go every Day to 'tother End of the Town with Complaints against you: They say you are to succeed *James Taylor* in the Pillory; they have mark'd your Fine already, and they will have you by Hedge or Stile in a short time.

Obs. Prithee, Man, I shall not be the First that has stood in the Pillory for serving his Country. But we don't live in a Reign as formerly, when Gentlemen were Punished as Bakers. We have a Queen that Governs according to Law, and so long it is safe to write in Defence of our Country. I have hitherto had the Law on my side, and am resolved to keep within the Verge thereof, wherein all *Englishmen* have Protection.

I hope there is more Reason for me to write in *Defence* of the Queens Title to the Crown, than for others to write *against it*, as the Authors of the *Exorbitant Grants* of King *William*, the *Observator Observ'd*, and others have done. There is a certain Party amongst us that Persecute with their Tongues whatever I write on the foresaid Account, and because that I have not only Vindicated the *Legality* of the *present Settlement*, but the Succession of the House of *Hannover*, which, under God, must be the support of the *Religion* and *Liberties* of *England* after the Death of Her Majesty, whom God grant long to Reign: These are the only Crimes I know my self guilty of.

Country m. They say you write against Her Majesties Officers, and so you reflect on the Government.

Obs. If these Men will not Distinguish betwixt the *Government* and the *Officers*, 'tis none of my Fault; but such as do distinguish very well know, that a *Good Government* may have *Bad Officers*, and a *Good Queen* may be *Ill serv'd*. This was the Cant of the *Modern Whiggs* in the late Reign: Forsooth, the Ministers were the Government, and whoever spoke against the *Frauds* of *Officers*, spoke against the King, and for this Reason, not so much as the Parliament could enquire into *Frauds*, without Danger of *Remonstrances*, under the Title of *Petitions*, and of *Legion Letters* under the Notion of *Claims of Right*. I hop'd we had out-liv'd those Days of Infamy, and that in this Reign one might have spoken of Frauds without Danger from a Combination of Officers Confederated to save Criminals from Justice. A Righteous Upright true *Englishman* is the same Creature under all Governments; because the true Interest of our Country is always the same. The Ship of State must keep the same Course in all Reigns; if she makes a Yaw, or her Sails shiver in the Wind when they ought to be kept full, I hope an *Englishman* may modestly ask, *Who's at the Helm?*

It is unreasonable to imagine that among so many Officers as are Employ'd under the Government of *England*, none of 'em should be Faulty. *Tacitus* says, *Vitia erunt, donec Homines erunt*; Vices will abound as long as Men live on the Earth; and so long there will be Ground of Complaint.

It is dangerous for Men to see into Publick Management a little farther than their Neighbours, and to be awake for the publick Good when others are a-sleep; and even those for whose Good such a Man has been upon the Watch, will be the first shall attempt to put out his Eyes. A Considerate Man is always in danger in a Nation that labours under the Curse of a Supine Carelessness of the Publick Welfare. Sir *Thomas Pope Blount* says, 'That Subtle and 'Crafty Prince, King *James* (I mean the *First*, 'not the *Second*) would often say, *That of all 'sorts of Subjects the thinking Men made the worst*. 'And ever by daily Experience we find it confirm'd, That the High flown *Arbitrary* Men '(commonly the Darlings of Tyrants) are 'not Men of the deepest Thoughts, nor of the 'greatest Foresight and Consideration.

In short, *Honest Country man*, no one that loves our Gracious Queen like you and my self, can see her Pocket pick'd and her High Dignity abused without taking Notice of it.

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